



Northwest PADRECC

Spring/Summer 2007

Insider



PADRECC In Progress

After working for three years in the PADRECC clinic **Molly Davis, MD** will be moving on. She has accepted a neurology residency here at the VA. We will miss her in clinic but are glad we still get to see her shining face around campus. Good luck Molly!

Brenna Lobb has joined us here at the PADRECC as staff and research support. She is in the processes of finishing an advanced degree in biostatistics at OHSU.

We would also like to welcome **Jason Aldred, MD** and **Amie Peterson, MD**. Both have been accepted into the fellowship program here at the PADRECC and will be starting this July.

Mini-Residency

The Portland PADRECC will host **Muhammad Zaidi, MD**, of the Sioux Falls, SD VA Medical Center to visit Portland for a week to train with the specialists in the PADRECC. Dr. Zaidi is a neurologist in our extended service area that provides care to many patients with movement disorders. As part of this mini-residency, he will take part in movement disorder clinics, botulinum toxin clinic, DBS programming sessions, neurology grand rounds, movement disorder journal club and present some of his challenging cases to the PADRECC clinicians. If you are a provider interested in coming to Portland to learn more about movement disorders, please contact Jeff Kraakevik, MD, at jeff.kraakevik@va.gov.

Parkinson's Disease Awareness Fair

PADRECC co-sponsored a Parkinson's Disease Awareness Fair on Wednesday, April 18th from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the E. Paul Kirk Convention Center and OHSU Center for Health & Healing (CHH) lobby. Additional sponsors included the Parkinson Center of Oregon, National Parkinson Foundation, and Parkinson's Resources of Oregon. The Awareness Fair was open to patients, caregivers, providers, and the general public. The Portland VA Medical Center staffed booths representing PADRECC, Pharmacy, Physical Therapy, and Audiology and Speech Pathology Services. The Awareness Fair featured a number of lectures including "What is Parkinson's Disease?" and "Gene Therapy, Stem Cells, and Exercise: Treatments And Research In Parkinson's Disease". PADRECC plans to host next year's Awareness Fair at the Portland VA Medical Center.



Jeremy Cook, PA-DRECC Administrative Assistant manning the PADRECC booth at the PD awareness fair.

PADRECC Fall Risk Performance Improvement

The PADRECC is currently involved in a performance improvement project aimed at identifying veterans with Parkinson's Disease who are at risk for falls, exploring interventions, and to reduce the number of falls in this population. At the recommendation of the External Advisory Committee, the PADRECC elected to focus on falls and injuries as a unified clinical theme for fiscal year 2007. The PADRECC hosted a number of patient education lectures relating to falls, including "Exercise, Balance, & Parkinson's Disease and Tai Chi" by Fay Horak, PhD and Strawberry Gatts, PhD. Ron Blehm, PADRECC's physical therapist, wrote an article for "The Parkinsonian", a newsletter for patients, titled "Five Things You Can Do Today To Help Prevent Falls". The PADRECC will host a provider CME lecture titled "Update on Impact and Treatment of Falls in Parkinson's Disease" on October 10, 2007. This will be presented by Jeff Kraakevik, MD, and Ron Blehm, PT. Dr. Kraakevik, continues to recruit for his study titled "Ability to Arise From the Floor in Persons with Parkinson's Disease", which looks at how well people with Parkinson's Disease can get up from the floor if they were to experience a fall. Marsha Andrews, PADRECC Data Manager, continues to develop data capture for identification of PD patients with falls. Marsha has completed an analysis of falls resulting in inpatient and ECU admits from 2003 – 2006 collected from PVAMC Parkinson's population. At a recent PADRECC Staff Meeting, Dr. Kraakevik, presented a proposed algorithm for patients with falls that will be formalized and serve as outline for a falls template within CPRS. The PADRECC hopes to continue to build on the success of the performance improvement project and will continue to strive to identify and reduce the risk for falls in Parkinson's patient.

Recent Publications by Dr. Ali Samii



Walker M, Kim H, **Samii A**. Holmes-like tremor of the lower extremity following brainstem hemorrhage. *Movement Disorders* 2007;22(2):272-274.

Etminan M, Carleton BC, **Samii A**. Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs and the risk of developing Parkinson disease: a retrospective cohort study *Journal of Clinical Neuroscience*; in press.

Samii A, Slimp JC, Friedly JL, Goodkin R. Spinal accessory neuropathy after deep brain stimulation for Parkinson disease. *Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery*; in press.

Samii A, Kelly VE, Slimp JC, Shumway-Cook A, Goodkin R. Staged unilateral vs. bilateral subthalamic nucleus stimulator implantation in Parkinson disease. *Movement Disorders*; in press.

Zabetian CP, Hutter CM, Factor SA, Nutt JG, Higgins DS, Griffith A, Roberts JW, Leis BC, Kay DM, Yearout D, Montimurro JS, Edwards KL, **Samii A**, Payami H. Association analysis of the *MAPT* H1 haplotype and subhaplotypes in Parkinson's disease. *Annals of Neurology*; in press.

Chun LS, **Samii A**, Hutter CM, Griffith A, Roberts JW, Leis BC, Mosley AD, Wander PL, Edwards KL, Payami H, Zabetian CP. The *DBH* -1021C→T polymorphism does not modify risk or age at onset in Parkinson's disease. *Annals of Neurology*; in press.

Patient Education Talks

The following talks will be held in the Portland VA Auditorium from 10:00 - 11:00 am unless otherwise noted:

Update on Impact and Treatment of Falls in Parkinson's Disease, Friday, July 27, 2007
Jeff Kraakevik, MD and Ron Blehm, BS in PT

NW PADRECC Consortium Symposium

The NW PADRECC will be hosting a **NW PADRECC Consortium Symposium** on **Saturday, September 29, 2007** at the Residence Inn Portland Downtown at RiverPlace. The symposium is an opportunity for Neurologists and other health care providers from within the NW PADRECC service area to share information and learn about Parkinson's Disease and other movement disorders. Stanley Fahn, MD of the Neurological Institute of New York is scheduled to present. The agenda includes presentations on the VA's commitment to Veterans with Parkinson's Disease, updates on Parkinson's Disease management within the VA, updates on therapeutic options and Deep Brain Stimulation, and case study presentations. NW PADRECC anticipates approximately 20 health care provider participants from across the Northwest, including physicians from Seattle, Boise, Sioux Falls, and Iowa City. For more information contact Ryan Rieger, PADRECC Administrative Officer at 503.341.1105 x55203.

V-tel

Our V-tel talks are provider oriented talks which are broadcast to several locations. Through a video conference type system, each talk is broadcast to the locations listed below so that attendees can watch the talk and then ask questions of the presenter. If you are unable to attend a talk or want to view a previous talk, you can request a VHS video tape of the talk by calling (503) 721-1091. For a list of previous V-tel talks you can visit our website at:

http://www.visn20.med.va.gov/portland/padrecc/providers/video_series.htm

All talks will be held from 11:30 - 12:30 at the Portland VA Hospital in Building 101, Room 109.

Dysphagia in Parkinson's Disease, Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Erin Bookout, M.S., C.C.C.-S.L.P.

Update on Impact and Treatment of Falls in Parkinson's Disease, Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Jeff Kraakevik, MD and Ron Blehm, PT

V-tels can be viewed at the following VA Hospital Locations:

Anchorage	3202
Boise	110
Portland (location of live talk)	Building 100, Room 109
Roseburg	C205
Seattle	204
Spokane	329A
Vancouver	Columbia Room
White City	158

Recruiting VA Studies

Memory and Movement Disorders Demonstration Project (VA IRB ID: 1585 VA IRB Grant Number: #02-2202)

Dr. Joseph Quinn, MD is conducting this research study in order to track the frequency and types of changes in mental functioning that occur over time in Parkinson's patients. Participants would be asked to attend one or more study visits. All study visits would take place at the Portland VA Medical Center. The first visit would take less than twenty minutes. If asked to continue in the study there would be a second 90 minute visit and then follow-up examinations once a year for the next 3 years. All patients in the Parkinson's Disease Research, Education and Clinic Center (PADRECC) are invited to participate in this study. You may or may not personally benefit from participating in this study. However, by serving as a subject, you may help us learn how to benefit patients in the future. For more information on how to participate, please contact Susan O'Connor, RN at (503) 721-1091.

Ability to Arise From the Floor in Persons with Parkinson's Disease (VA IRB ID: 1585 VA IRB Grant Number: #06-1405)

Dr. Jeff Krakkevik, MD is conducting this study to see how well people with Parkinson's Disease can get up from the floor after they experience a fall. Participation would require up to three 30 to 40 minute outpatient visits at the Portland VA Medical center. In order to participate you must be a Veteran treated in the PADRECC Clinic or by the PADRECC physical therapist, Diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease, and at least 30 years of age. You may not be able to participate if you are unable to stand or move without the help of a caregiver, you have other neurological or musculoskeletal abnormalities that might affect your ability to stand from a sitting position, or the investigators determine that you are not eligible for safety reasons. You may not benefit from this study, however if you are found to have difficulty in arising from the floor you may benefit from instruction and advice on how to do so. Study visits would take place at the Portland VA Medical center. For more information on how to participate, please contact Susan O'Connor, RN at (503) 721-1091.

Biomarker's in Parkinson's Disease (VA IRB ID: 1774 VA IRB Grant Number: 04-0406)

Dr. Kathryn Chung, MD is conducting a study in order to understand the unique proteins (biomarkers) for Parkinson's Disease (PD) and dementia that are found in the brain. Some of these proteins are also found in the cerebrospinal fluid (CSF). CSF is a watery fluid which flows in the cavities within the brain and around the surface of the brain and spinal cord. If we come to understand the kinds and amounts of proteins that exist in the CSF, it may be possible to track the progress of the disease, determine if treatments are helping to slow the disease down, and make more accurate diagnoses of true PD versus conditions that may act like PD. This is a research study and is not treatment for Parkinson's Disease. To participate in this study you must be 21 years of age or older, and have PD. Participants will be asked to participate in 2 study visits which will occur at either the GCRC or the VA Research Clinic area. The first visit, for a screening and physical examination, will last about an hour, and the second visit, for the lumbar puncture, will last about 2 hours. These two visits may be scheduled a couple of days or a couple of weeks apart, depending on scheduling. Participants must be willing to undergo a lumbar puncture (where a special needle will be inserted in between two bones in your lower back). You may not benefit from this study; however you may help us learn how to better help patients in the future. You will also be compensated \$200 for your time and effort. Kathryn Chung, MD is the clinical investigator for the study and can be reached at:

P3-PADRECC
Portland VA Medical Center
3710 SW Veterans Hospital Road
Portland, OR 97239

For more information on how to participate contact David Clark at 503-220-8262 ext. 57538.



Recruiting OHSU Studies

Fish Oil for Depression in Multiple Sclerosis (MS) and Parkinson's Disease (PD)

The Parkinson's Center of Oregon at Oregon Health & Science University is looking for people with a confirmed diagnosis of PD who are suffering from Depression. The purpose of the study is to determine if taking omega-3 fatty acids along with your current antidepressant helps with symptoms of depression in people with PD. In addition we will determine if omega-3 fatty acids decrease blood levels of substances that are associated with depression.

You may be eligible to participate in the study if you meet all of the following criteria.

- Have a definite diagnosis of PD
- On a stable dose of anti-depressant medication

Between 18-85 years of age

This is a three-month pilot study in which 60 participants with either PD or MS will be randomly assigned to receive either fish oil capsules (which have high amounts of omega-3 fatty acids) or placebo capsules. The study requires 5 visits to OHSU. The research study will pay for all costs associated with the participation in this study. You will be responsible for any expenses that have to do with other aspects of your participation such as childcare and transportation. If you meet the eligibility requirements described above and are interested in participating in this study please call Dr. Lynne Shinto at (503) 494-5035.